

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. Res. 447. A resolution congratulating the University of Wisconsin Badgers men's hockey team for winning the 2006 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Hockey Championship; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to expand access to preventive health care services that help reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce the number of abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 420

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 420, a bill to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 521

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

S. 537

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 832

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 832, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide taxpayer protection and assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to allow Congress, State legislatures, and regulatory agencies to determine appropriate laws, rules, and regulations to address the problems of weight gain, obesity, and health conditions associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to improve the national program to register and monitor individuals who commit crimes against children or sex offenses.

S. 1180

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reauthorize various programs servicing the needs of homeless veterans for fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and for other purposes.

S. 1735

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1735, a bill to improve the Federal Trade Commission's ability to protect consumers from price-gouging during energy emergencies, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1735, *supra*.

S. 1741

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1741, a bill to

amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area.

S. 1767

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1767, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to reevaluate the band plans for the upper 700 megahertz band and the un-auctioned portions of the lower 700 megahertz band and reconfigure them to include spectrum to be licensed for small geographic areas.

S. 1955

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1955, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace.

S. 1998

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1998, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections relating to the reputation and meaning of the Medal of Honor and other military decorations and awards, and for other purposes.

S. 2048

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to classify certain children's products containing lead to be banned hazardous substances.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to enhance protection of children from sexual exploitation by strengthening section 2257 of title 18, United States Code, requiring producers of sexually explicit material to keep and permit inspection of records regarding the age of performers, and for other purposes.

S. 2154

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to provide for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in honor of Rosa Parks.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the mediation and implementation requirements of

section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

S. 2370

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2370, a bill to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 2385

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2385, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability.

S. 2401

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2401, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain energy tax incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 2451

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2451, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand certain tax benefits related to Hurricane Katrina and to Hurricane Rita.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2491, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

S. 2503

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER)

were added as cosponsors of S. 2503, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an extension of the period of limitation to file claims for refunds on account of disability determinations by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2548

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2548, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

S. 2556

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2556, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to reform of executive compensation in corporate bankruptcies.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2557, a bill to improve competition in the oil and gas industry, to strengthen antitrust enforcement with regard to industry mergers, and for other purposes.

S. 2563

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2563, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require prompt payment to pharmacies under part D, to restrict pharmacy co-branding on prescription drug cards issued under such part, and to provide guidelines for Medication Therapy Management Services programs offered by prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans under such part.

S. 2617

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2617, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the costs to retired members of the Armed Forces of health care services under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2643

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2643, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

S. RES. 313

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and to educate the public on ways to help prevent the use of that damaging narcotic.

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 405

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 405, a resolution designating August 16, 2006, as "National Airborne Day".

S. RES. 441

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 441, a resolution expressing the support of the Senate for the reconvening of the Parliament of Nepal and for an immediate, peaceful transition to democracy.

S. RES. 445

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 445, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 3594

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3594 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3597

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3597 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3599

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr.

KENNEDY), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3599 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3600

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3600 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VITTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BOND, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GREGG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. AL-LARD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. BURR):

S. 2653. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to make efforts to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the Call Home Act of 2006 would require the Federal Communications Commission to take such actions as may be necessary to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas, including the waiver of government fees, assessments, or other costs.

In seeking to reduce phone rates, the legislation would require the FCC to evaluate and analyze the costs of calls to and from official duty stations including vessels whether in port or under way; evaluate methods of reducing rates including deployment of new technology such as Voice over Internet protocol, VOIP, or other Internet protocol technology; encourage phone companies to adopt flexible billing procedures and policies call to and from Armed Forces personnel; and seek agreements with foreign governments to reduce international surcharges on phone calls.

The legislation would, however, prohibit the FCC from regulating rates in

order to carry out the Call Home Act's requirements.

The Call Home Act of 2006 would replace similar legislation from 1992 that limited the FCC's efforts to reduce rates to specific countries. The Call Home Act would expand the FCC's efforts to benefit troops wherever they are deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

We have received a letter of support from the Military Coalition, which represents 36 military and veterans groups. We have also received letters of support from individual members of that coalition and others urging Congress to enact this legislation: Veterans of Foreign Wars; Association of the United States Army; Enlisted Association of the National Guard; Military Officers Association of America; American Legion; Naval Reserve Association; Naval Enlisted Reserve Association; Gold Star Wives of America; and Air Force Sergeants Association.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars' letter of support says that calls home are "lifeline" for the brave men and women stationed abroad.

I urge you to vote for this important legislation.

I ask unanimous consent letters in support of this legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE MILITARY COALITION,
Alexandria, VA, April 10, 2006.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, is writing to express our strong support of your bill, "Call Home Act of 2006," that directs the Federal Communications Commission to seek ways to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas.

Everyday, military members deployed or assigned unaccompanied overseas are faced with the burdens of being separated from families and loved ones. Your bill recognizes the burden these members and families encounter and takes an important step forward to reduce the costs of high phone rates.

The Military Coalition thanks you for introducing this legislation and recommends that the bill be expanded to include all members of the uniformed services. We also appreciate your leadership on issues affecting all servicemembers and their families and pledge our strong support in seeking enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Signed by 36 representatives of member organizations of the Military Coalition.

ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY,
Arlington, VA, April 6, 2006.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: On behalf of over 100,000 members of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), I write to express our strong support of your bill. "Call Home Act of 2006," that directs the Federal

Communications Commission to seek ways to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas.

Everyday, military members deployed or assigned unaccompanied overseas are faced with the burdens of being separated from families and loved ones. Your bill recognizes the burden these members and families encounter and takes an important step forward to reduce the costs of high phone rates.

AUSA thanks you for introducing this legislation and for your leadership on issues affecting all servicemembers and their families. We pledge our strong support in seeking enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

GORDON R. SULLIVAN,
General, USA Retired.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2006.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: On behalf of the 4 million members of The American Legion Family, I would like to take this opportunity to offer our support for your draft legislation entitled, The Call Home Act of 2006.

Your legislation would direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to make every effort possible to reduce telephone rates for those deployed and fighting overseas in the war on terror. The bill also directs the FCC to develop new technologies, encourage foreign governments to reduce international surcharges, and help provide flexible billing for troops and their families. All of these things would help make positive improvements in the lives of our servicemembers who just want to phone home and talk to a loved one.

We support efforts to reduce telephone rates for our servicemembers stationed overseas who depend on an affordable and timely means of communication with their family and loved ones. Over a decade ago, American Legion National Commanders discovered in their visits to troops in the Balkans that our servicemembers were being charged exorbitant telephone rates to call home. The American Legion is strongly supportive of military quality of life, and frequent and timely calling home is a huge morale factor which could only pay dividends to our troops going into harm's way.

Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your continuous support of those on the battlefield today. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

CLARENCE HILL,
Chairman,
National Security Commission.

ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD,
Alexandria, VA, April 6, 2006.

Hon. TED STEVENS, Chairman,
Hon. DANIEL INOUE, Ranking Member,
U.S. Senate, Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation, Washington, DC.

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is pleased to express our strongest support, on behalf of the Enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, for the "Call Home Act of 2006" which would authorize the FCC to take actions necessary to reduce telephone bills for all deployed service members, active duty, Guard and Reserve.

Members of the Guard and Reserve comprise over 45 percent of all U.S. personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since September 11, 2001, our nation has deployed over 525,000 Guard and Reserve members for operational missions for the Global War on Terrorism,